



5. The Defendant, is a citizen, resident, and is domiciled in the State of New Jersey.

6. The amount in controversy in this case, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the sum of \$75,000.

7. 28 U.S.C. §1332(a)(1) states that “the district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil action where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value or \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between . . . citizens of different states.”

8. This court thus has original jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the aforementioned Section 1332(a)(1).

9. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) (1) and (2) states, “(1) this section shall govern the venue of all civil actions brought in district courts of the United States; and (2) the proper venue for a civil action shall be determined without regard to whether the action is local or transitory in nature.”

10. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) (1) and (2).

11. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) (2) states, “A civil action may be brought in a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated.”

12. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) (2) in that this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims asserted in this Complaint occurred; i.e., the accident at issue occurred in Cape May County, New Jersey, which is in this federal judicial district.

13. On or about October 16, 2019, at approximately 6:50 AM, Plaintiff, was the operator of a motor vehicle which was traveling in traffic at or near the intersection of Oak Avenue and Harding Highway, Franklin, NJ 08328.

14. At or about the same date and time, Defendant, Edward P Burnell, was the operator of a motor vehicle, owned by Defendant A One Leasing LLC, which was traveling at or near the aforesaid location and/or the location of Plaintiff's vehicle.

15. At or about the same date and time, Defendant's vehicle was involved in a motor vehicle collision with the Plaintiff's vehicle.

16. The aforesaid motor vehicle collision was caused by the Defendant negligently and/or carelessly, operating his vehicle in such a manner so as to rear-end Plaintiff's vehicle.

17. The aforesaid motor vehicle collision was the result of the negligence and/or carelessness of Defendant and not the result of any action or failure to act by Plaintiff.

18. As a result of the accident, Plaintiff suffered serious, severe and permanent bodily injuries, including to the right ankle, right knee, back, neck, and head, as set forth more fully below.

**COUNT I**  
**Ronald Gunter vs. Edward P Burnell**  
**Personal Injury – Negligence**

19. The negligence and/or carelessness of Defendant, which was the direct and sole cause of the aforesaid motor vehicle accident and the injuries and damages sustained by the Plaintiff, consisted of, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. Rear-ending Plaintiff's vehicle, causing the Plaintiff to strike the car ahead of them, then across traffic and off the roadway into a field where the Plaintiff's vehicle came to rest after striking a tree. The defendant was cited by police for reckless driving and expired registration;
- b. Operating his/her vehicle into Plaintiff's lane of travel;
- c. Failing to maintain proper distance between vehicles;

- d. Operating his vehicle in a negligent and/or careless manner without regard for the rights or safety of Plaintiff or others;
- e. Failing to have his vehicle under proper and adequate control;
- f. Operating his vehicle at a dangerous and excessive rate of speed under the circumstances;
- g. Violation of the “assured clear distance ahead” rule;
- h. Failure to keep a proper lookout;
- i. Failure to apply brakes earlier to stop the vehicle without rear-ending Plaintiff’s vehicle;
- j. Being inattentive to his/her duties as an operator of a motor vehicle;
- k. Disregarding traffic lanes, patterns, and other devices;
- l. Driving at a high rate of speed which was high and dangerous for conditions;
- m. Failing to remain continually alert while operating said vehicle;
- n. Failing to perceive the highly apparent danger to others which the actions and/or inactions posed;
- o. Failing to give Plaintiff meaningful warning signs concerning the impending collision;
- p. Failing to exercise ordinary care to avoid a rear-end collision;
- q. Failing to be highly vigilant and maintain sufficient control of said vehicle and to bring it to a stop on the shortest possible notice;

- r. Operating said vehicle with disregard for the rights of Plaintiff, even though he was aware or should have been aware of the presence of Plaintiff and the threat of harm posed to Plaintiff;
- s. Continuing to operate the vehicle in a direction towards Plaintiff's vehicle when she saw, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have seen, that further operation in that direction would result in a collision;
- t. Failing to operate his/her vehicle in compliance with the applicable laws and ordinances of the State of New Jersey pertaining to the operation and control of motor vehicles;

20. As a direct and consequential result of the negligent and/or careless conduct of the Defendant, described above, Plaintiff suffered various serious and permanent personal injuries, serious impairment of bodily function and/or permanent serious disfigurement and/or aggravation of pre-existing conditions, including to the right ankle, right knee, back, neck, and head, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.

21. As a result of these injuries, all of which are permanent in nature and all of which are to Plaintiff's great financial detriment and loss, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and may in the future suffer great anguish, sickness and agony and will continue to suffer for an indefinite time into the future.

22. As an additional result of the carelessness and/or negligence of defendant, Plaintiff has suffered emotional injuries, along with the physical injuries suffered.

23. As a direct result of the negligent and/or careless conduct of the Defendant, Plaintiff suffered damage to his/her personal property, including a motor vehicle, which Plaintiff

was operating at the time of the aforesaid motor vehicle collision; including but not limited to, storage fees and towing, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.

24. As a further result of Plaintiff's injuries, she has in the past, is presently and may in the future undergo a great loss of earnings and/or earning capacity, all to Plaintiff's further loss and detriment.

25. Furthermore, in addition to all the injuries and losses suffered by Plaintiff, Plaintiff has also incurred or will incur medical, rehabilitative and other related expenses in an amount equal to and/or in excess of the basic personal injury protection benefits for which she makes a claim for payment in the present action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Ronald Gunter, prays for judgment in her favor and against Defendant, Edward P Burnell, in an amount in excess of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars, plus all costs and other relief this court deems just.

**COUNT II**  
**Ronald Gunter v. A One Leasing LLC**  
**Negligent Entrustment**

26. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth fully at length herein.

27. The negligence, carelessness of Defendant, A One Leasing LLC, which was a proximate cause of the aforesaid motor vehicle collision and the resultant injuries and damages sustained by the Plaintiff, consists of, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. Permitting Defendant, Edward P Burnell, to operate the motor vehicle without first ascertaining whether or not he/she was capable of properly operating said vehicle;

- b. Permitting Defendant, Edward P Burnell to operate the motor vehicle when Defendant, A One Leasing LLC, knew, or in the exercise of due care and diligence, should have known that Defendant, Edward P Burnell, was capable of committing the acts of negligence set forth above;
- c. Failing to warn those persons, including the Plaintiff, that Defendant, A One Leasing LLC, knew, or in the exercise of due care and diligence should have known, that the Plaintiff would be exposed to Defendant, Edward P Burnell's negligent operation of the motor vehicle.

28. As a direct result of the negligent, and/or careless conduct of Defendant, the Plaintiff suffered various serious and permanent personal injuries, serious impairment of bodily function, permanent serious disfigurement, aggravation of certain injuries and/or other ills and injuries including to the right ankle, right knee, back, neck, and head, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.

29. As a result of these injuries, all of which are permanent in nature and all of which are to Plaintiff's great financial detriment and loss, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and may in the future suffer great anguish, sickness and agony and will continue to suffer for an indefinite time into the future.

30. As an additional result of the carelessness, negligence of Defendant, Plaintiff has suffered emotional injuries, along with the physical injuries suffered.

31. As a direct result of the negligent, and/or careless, conduct of the Defendant, Plaintiff suffered damage to Plaintiff's personal property, including a motor vehicle, which Plaintiff was operating at the time of the aforesaid motor vehicle collision; including but not limited to, storage fees and towing, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.

32. As a further result of Plaintiff's injuries, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and may in the future undergo a great loss of earnings and/or earning capacity, all to Plaintiff's further loss and detriment.

33. Furthermore, in addition to all the injuries and losses suffered by Plaintiff, Plaintiff has also incurred or will incur medical, rehabilitative and other related expenses in an amount equal to and/or in excess of the basic personal injury protection benefits required by law, for which she makes a claim for payment in the present action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Ronald Gunter, prays for judgment in her favor and against Defendant, A One Leasing LLC, in an amount in excess of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars, plus all costs and other relief this court deems just.

**COUNT III**  
**Ronald Gunter vs A One Leasing LLC**  
**Respondent Superior**

34. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.

35. The negligence and/or carelessness of Defendant, itself and through its agent, the driver of the motor vehicle, acting at all times relevant hereto within the scope of the agency, which was the direct and proximate cause of the incident and the injuries and damages sustained by the plaintiff consist of, but is not limited to:

- a. Rear-ending Plaintiff's vehicle, causing the Plaintiff to strike the car ahead of them, then across traffic and off the roadway into a field where the Plaintiff's vehicle came to rest after striking a tree. The defendant was cited by police for reckless driving and expired registration;



- b. Operating his/her vehicle into Plaintiff's lane of travel;
- c. Failing to maintain proper distance between vehicles;
- d. Operating his/her vehicle in a negligent manner so as to rear-end Plaintiff's vehicle without regard for the rights or safety of Plaintiff or others;
- e. Failing to have his/her vehicle under proper and adequate control;
- f. Operating his/her vehicle at a dangerous and excessive rate of speed under the circumstances;
- g. Violation of the "assured clear distance ahead" rule;
- h. Failure to keep a proper lookout;
- i. Failure to apply brakes earlier to stop the vehicle without rear-ending the Plaintiff and/or Plaintiff's vehicle;
- j. Being inattentive to his/her duties as an operator of a motor vehicle;
- k. Disregarding traffic lanes, patterns, and other devices;
- l. Driving at a dangerously high rate of speed for conditions;
- m. Failing to remain continually alert while operating said vehicle;
- n. Failing to perceive the highly apparent danger to others which the actions and/or inactions posed;
- o. Failing to give Plaintiff meaningful warning signs concerning the impending collision;
- p. Failing to exercise ordinary care to avoid a rear-end collision;
- q. Failing to be highly vigilant and maintain sufficient control of said vehicle and to bring it to a stop on the shortest possible notice;

- r. Operating said vehicle with disregard for the rights of Plaintiff, even though he/she was aware or should have been aware of the presence of Plaintiff and the threat of harm posed to him;
- s. Continuing to operate the vehicle in a direction towards the Plaintiff's vehicle when he/she saw, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have seen, that further operation in that direction would result in a collision;
- t. Failing to operate his/her vehicle in compliance with the applicable laws and ordinances of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pertaining to the operation and control of motor vehicles;

36. As a direct result of the negligent and/or careless, conduct of Defendant, Plaintiff suffered various serious and permanent personal injuries, serious impairment of bodily function, permanent serious disfigurement, and/or aggravation of certain injuries including to the right ankle, right knee, back, neck, and head, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.

37. As a result of these injuries, all of which are permanent in nature and all of which are to Plaintiffs' great financial detriment and loss, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently, and may in the future suffer great pain, anguish, sickness and agony and will continue to suffer for an indefinite time into the future.

38. As an additional result of the carelessness and/or negligence of Defendant, Plaintiff has suffered emotional injuries along with the physical injuries suffered.

39. As a direct result of the negligent and/or careless conduct of the Defendant, Plaintiff suffered damage to Plaintiff's personal property, including a motor vehicle, which Plaintiff was operating at the time of the aforesaid motor vehicle collision; including but not limited to, storage fees and towing, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.

40. As a further result of the injuries sustained, Plaintiff has, is presently, and may in the future undergo a great loss of earnings and/or earning capacity, all to Plaintiff's further loss and detriment.

41. Furthermore, in addition to all the injuries and losses suffered by Plaintiff, Plaintiff has also incurred or will incur medical, rehabilitative and other related expenses in an amount equal to and/or in excess of the basic personal injury protection benefits required by the Pennsylvania Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law, 75 Pa.C.S. Section 1701, et. Seq., as amended, for which he/she makes a claim for payment in the present action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment in Plaintiff's favor and against Defendant, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars, plus all costs and other relief this court deems necessary.

SIMON & SIMON, P.C. BY:



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Marc I. Simon, Esquire

